

Adoption Day celebrated Tues.

By MIKE FORNES

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CHEBOYGAN - With a theme of "giving thanks for families," The Cheboygan County 53rd Circuit Court and Family Division Judge Robert John Butts will celebrate the 4th Annual Michigan Adoption Day from 9:30 a.m. until noon on Tuesday.

Included in the event, held in conjunction with the Michigan Supreme Court and the Department of Human Services, will be the finalization of the adoption of three local children. Each of the families will be invited to help celebrate after the conclusion of the adoptions.

"We're very excited about this event," said Butts. "In most cases, people are not happy to come to court. Adoptions are one of the exceptions - a joyous occasion for the families and for the court, the Department of Human Services and the service providers involved with the families."

Butts said that adoption is the only answer for children who can never return home because of abuse and neglect, stating that there are many children available for adoption in Michigan, waiting for safe, loving homes.

"In addition, there are many children who have never really known their father or their mother, and a step-parent comes forward and becomes that needed parent," Butts added.

According to Butts, the Cheboygan County Family Court has finalized the adoptions of 18 children for 12 families so far in 2006.

He added that more information will be available at the event for persons interested in adoption. Questions are also welcome at 627-5421 or 627-8876.